

## MESA EDITORIAL

Where does all the material for this issue come from? With tongue in cheek do I complain, for I am constantly dependent upon you, the MESA members, to keep sending me programs, notices of fellowships, promotions, appointments, and other news of interest to our readers. Please keep sending the material. By having your publications mailed to MESA headquarters these books are listed under books received and a large percentage of them are reviewed in the Bulletin. In addition, this issue is larger because, in part, the increased numbers of ads permitted us to cover the additional expenses. These and additional ads are vital if the Bulletin is going to be able to include as much material as it does. I hope publishers will continue to be supportive. Finally, if you want to be considered as a reviewer, send MESA your c.v. with a note on the topics you specialize in. These lists are then circulated to the editors.

Even with the expanded size, we have a backlog of important material. In the next issue the third article dealing with the bibliography of the theatrical movement of Western Asia and Northern Africa, Peter V. Chelkowski, editor, will appear. The piece is by Edward Allworth and is on drama and theater of the Russian East. The issue will also include the second part of Charles Butterworth's study on philosophy.

As editor I continued a policy that did not include a "communications" section. Last fall, having received my first "letter of reply to a review," I raised the issue with members of MESA's executive board, the Bulletin's book review editors, and other editors. After these discussions and consultation, I have decided to maintain the original policy.

In a different vein, I wish to share news from the University of Washington. Last fall the U. W. announced it would eliminate our department, Near East Languages and Literature. The support from colleagues (as reflected in the MESA resolution), students, and friends was overwhelming. The U. W. administration reversed its original decision. The department is now being reorganized and expanded as a Department of Near East Studies. In addition, negotiations are well under way for a Near East publication series through the University of Washington Press. On behalf of all of us in Seattle, thank you for your help--it made a difference.

With this issue, Dale F. Eickelman steps down as anthropology-sociology book review editor. We had never met until last April although we had worked together for almost five years. Dale has been excellent as an editor and I greatly appreciate all his work. I am also very pleased that Michael Bonine will take over Dale's job. The number of books on Iran has increased so significantly that Leonard Helfgott has been added as a book review editor for this area. In the Arizona office, Louise Fields, Assistant to the Executive Director, has left for another job and I shall miss her efficiency and her teasing. Lucina Myers, the excellent secretary to the Executive Director, will not be available full time and this will be another serious loss. MESA and the Bulletin have been very fortunate to have had these two outstanding individuals in the Arizona office. In Seattle, my debt to Dr. Theodora MacKay increases with each issue. Theo's skills as the associate editor are critical for this publication of the Bulletin. Both of us, in turn, appreciate the professionalism of Jordis Young, our word processor, whose accuracy reduced our burden. Lastly, I wish to thank my friend, Jonathan Bloom and the staff of the Fogg Museum, Harvard for supplying the photographs for the cover and the text.

Jere L. Bacharach